



FIELD CROPS

Potato Acreage, Production and Stocks

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St. • Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 • (407) 648-6029 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov/fl

May 16, 2008

2008 SPRING PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

The spring crop potato production is forecast at 8.04 million cwt, down 1 percent from the April 1 forecast but 3 percent above the combined winter/spring 2007 production of 7.81 million cwt. Potato growers in the Hastings area are expected to dig about 61 percent of the total production, or 4.93 million cwt, up 313,000 cwt or 7 percent from last year. The remainder potato production at 3.11 million cwt will be harvested by growers in other areas. Yield is expected to average 288 cwt per acre, up slightly from last year's winter/spring combined yield at 287 cwt per acre. The Hastings area combined yield, at 290 cwt per acre, is up 5 cwt or 2 percent from the 2007 combined yield of 285 cwt per acre. Florida's winter potatoes were combined with spring potatoes in 2007. Mostly dry weather January through March and no disease allowed growers to keep field activities on schedule, resulting in very good quantity and quality potatoes.

UNITED STATES

Spring production for 2008 is forecast at 19.6 million cwt, down 2 percent from the April forecast and 1 percent below 2007. Area for harvest is forecast at 67,700 acres, up 1 percent from the previous forecast but 4 percent lower than last year. The average yield is forecast at 289 cwt per acre, 8 cwt below the April 1 forecast but 7 cwt higher than 2007. California spring potato production is forecast at 6.01 million cwt, up 9 percent from the April 1 forecast. Most growers reported a healthy crop and are expecting excellent yields. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.80 million cwt, unchanged from the previous forecast. Crop condition was rated 94 percent good to excellent with topsoil moisture at 99 percent adequate to surplus. Production in Texas is forecast at 1.68 million cwt, down 32 percent from the April 1 forecast. Spring potatoes are planted in the southern region of Texas, which experienced dry conditions. Arizona growers expect production to total 1.05 million cwt, unchanged from the previous forecast.

POTATOES

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested						
	2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008	2006	2007	Indicated 2008
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Spring									
Arizona	4.0	3.5	4.0	3.5	280	300	1,170	1,120	1,050
California	15.5	14.3	15.5	14.3	395	420	6,044	6,123	6,006
Florida ^{1/}	27.8	28.5	27.2	27.9	287	288	6,441	7,807	8,037
Hastings	16.5	17.3	16.2	17.0	285	290	4,731	4,617	4,930
Other	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.9	290	285	1,710	3,190	3,107
North Carolina	16.0	14.5	14.5	14.0	186	200	3,255	2,700	2,800
Texas ^{2/}	9.5	8.4	9.0	8.0	230	210	2,856	2,070	1,680
Total ^{2/}	72.8	69.2	70.2	67.7	282	289	19,766	19,820	19,573

^{1/} Winter potatoes combined with spring potatoes in 2007-08.

^{2/} 2007 revised.

APRIL POTATO STOCKS UP 17 PERCENT FROM MAY 1, 2007

The 13 major potato States held 92.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2008, up 17 percent from last year and 22 percent above May 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 23 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 570 thousand cwt on May 1, 2008, down 5 percent from last year. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 was at 307 million cwt, 1 percent below last year but up 3 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 23.4 million cwt, was down 3 percent from the same period in 2007 but up 6 percent from 2006.

Processors have used 158 million cwt of the 2007 potato crop so far this season, down 3 percent from last year's season-to-date usage but up 6 percent from 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 1 percent from a year ago and Maine's total processing was 3 percent below 2007. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was 4 percent lower than last season. Dehydrating usage accounted for 33.4 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year but 11 percent above the same period in 2006.

California's, Idaho's, Oregon's, and Washington's potato stocks were up 2, 12, 33, and 79 percent from May 1, 2007, respectively, while Colorado's stocks were down 24 percent from a year ago. Wisconsin's potato stocks were down 8 percent from last year; North Dakota's stocks were 19 percent below 2007; and potato stocks in Nebraska were down 29 percent from the previous season. Minnesota's stocks increased 17 percent from the same date in 2007 and Michigan's potato stocks were 129 percent higher than a year ago. Maine's potato stocks were 25 percent lower than last year.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2005-2007^{1/}

State	Crop year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Entire season
		1,000 cwt							
Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon	2005	22,840	29,300	35,970	43,300	50,820	57,830	65,030	77,360
	2006	27,090	34,070	41,350	48,940	56,650	63,680	71,220	85,630
	2007	26,230	33,260	40,220	48,570	55,480	63,000		
Maine ^{2/}	2005	1,365	1,880	2,485	3,090	3,800	4,450	5,130	6,825
	2006	1,755	2,360	2,910	3,465	4,185	4,810	5,470	7,560
	2007	1,700	2,170	2,815	3,440	3,985	4,670		
Washington & Oregon—Other	2005	30,310	35,895	40,545	48,290	55,320	61,885	69,360	78,550
	2006	30,980	37,060	42,190	49,930	56,690	63,170	70,410	77,355
	2007	28,995	34,675	39,700	47,390	53,645	60,750		
Other States ^{3/}	2005	11,055	14,070	17,005	19,895	22,520	25,270	27,740	35,535
	2006	14,270	17,695	21,290	24,545	28,040	31,370	34,830	43,315
	2007	15,040	17,560	20,890	23,955	26,615	29,535		
Total	2005	65,570	81,145	96,005	114,575	132,46	149,405	167,26	198,27
	2006	74,095	91,185	107,74	126,880	145,56	163,030	181,93	213,86
	^{4/} 2007	71,965	87,665	103,62	123,355	139,72	157,955		
Dehydrated ^{5/}	2005	11,920	15,655	19,225	22,765	26,605	30,065	34130	41,625
	2006	14,590	19,250	23,635	27,885	32,210	36,480	40,915	49,370
	^{4/} 2007	12,660	16,680	20,965	25,185	29,325	33,405		

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME and WI.
^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only.
^{3/} CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.
^{4/} April revised.
^{5/} Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, 1998 through 2007

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1
1,000 Cwt								
1998 ^{1/}	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999 ^{1/}	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000 ^{1/}	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001 ^{1/}	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002 ^{1/}	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003 ^{1/}	403,181	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004 ^{1/}	403,587	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005	374,298	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560
2006	389,272	259,300	226,100	192,600	159,700	121,000	79,050	44,460
2007	400,085	270,100	237,500	206,200	171,800	133,600	92,710	

^{1/} 15 major States.